

# TID-BITS FROM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

## THE DAWN OF ART

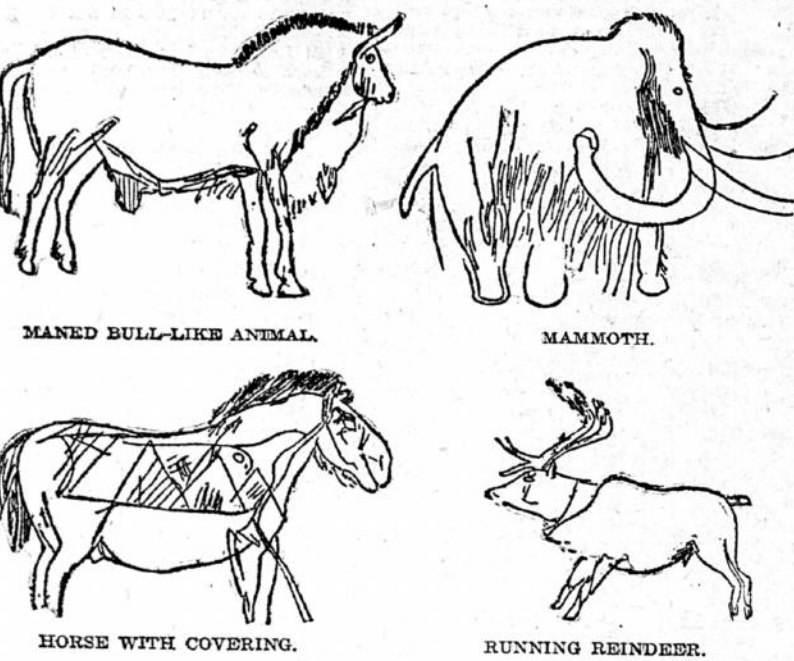
Prehistoric Sketches Recently Discovered in the Combarelles Cavern.

Among the most interesting of the discoveries made by the scientists who devote their time to researches into the Paleolithic ages—thousands of years before recorded history begins—are those which prove that even in those dim and distant ages man, such as he was, had aesthetic yearnings. Few and far between are such discoveries; but when, once in a while, they are made, they cause a sympathetic thrill of interest in the bosoms of learned societies, and even of those who, not having time to be learned, feel the magnetic attraction of the "human document."

Lately one of the most important of such discoveries has been made in France,

creatures roamed the hills and valleys of South Central France, man was also there—that is to say, in the Paleolithic or Older Stone Age.

The precision with which the figures are drawn, say the discoverers, "allows us to recognize the species of the animals so represented. The equine types are sometimes large-headed, with short, stiff manes—sometimes with flowing manes and tails. Some of the horses were domestic animals. One of them (shown in our sketch) has on its back a covering—a palaeolithic horse cloth, others have trace of his and halters. The bovine types are less frequent; one of them (also reproduced) has the character of certain African antelopes (such as the gnu) while an-



MANED BULL-LIKE ANIMAL.

MAMMOTH.

HORSE WITH COVERING.

RUNNING REINDEER.

In the Grotto of Combarelles, near Eyzies, in Dordogne. The discovery was communicated to the Académie des Sciences by Messrs. Capitan and Breuil, and when accompanied by drawings, some of which we reproduce, of certain figures of animals engraved on the walls of the grotto on each side of its length. The drawings are in some places quite deeply engraved in the rock; in others they are only scratched; here and there is an effort to give a relief to the sketches. It was at once evident to the discoverers that these remarkable rock drawings were identical in character with those on fragments of bone and horn, well known to scientists, and of which casts may be seen in the British Museum, and that the same striving after truth in rendering the characteristics of the animals was to be seen in the grotto of Combarelles, proving the familiarity of the artist with the appearance of the animals themselves. So that the artist was contemporary with the animal he drew. Now one of these animals being a hairy mammoth and the other a reindeer, it is evident that when those

other is much like our oxen of to-day. The running reindeer (see sketch) is identical in character with those which are engraved on bone and of the same period. The representations of the mammoths (of which fourteen were exhibited to the Académie des Sciences) are very characteristic. Some are more hairy than others. With these rock drawings are strange signs engraved in the rock: a circle with a semicircle of human features, a double outlined lozenge on the middle of the body of one of the horses, others of M-like shape, semicircles, etc., all of mysterious and unknown significance. The first piece of engraved bone was discovered embedded in the stalagmite of the caverns once tenanted by human beings, there has been no discovery which has caused so great an interest as this one in the stalagmite cavern of Combarelles. We have in these rude and yet skillful efforts of the human race deeply interesting evidence that man once shared with mammoth and with reindeer the Arctic plains of southern France.

## A HUSBAND'S ADVICE

**Smart Set.**  
Mrs. Witherby—Dear, the men have come to put in the telephone.  
Witherby—All right. Let me put it in.  
Mrs. Witherby—But where do you think it would better go?  
Witherby—I don't care. Anywhere to suit you.  
Mrs. Witherby—But where do you think would be the best place?  
Witherby (carefully going over the whole matter in his mind, after a moment's thought)—I should put it back of these stairs, in the hall.  
Mrs. Witherby—Oh, dear, no. That would never do. Why, suppose burglars—  
Witherby—Nonsense!  
Mrs. Witherby—Then why don't you suggest a place?  
Witherby (dryly)—I have.  
Mrs. Witherby—But a decent place.  
Witherby—Look here; you settle this matter yourself. I don't care where you put that telephone. You can hang it on the roof, put it in the laundry or on the front door, if you want to.  
Mrs. Witherby (haughtily)—There! I knew that's the way you would act. I have to decide every single thing about this house, and I'm sick and tired of having such a helpless man as you are for a husband.  
Witherby—You ought to have married an electrician or a house decorator. Haven't I told you what I thought?  
Mrs. Witherby—Well, you don't think of some other place, instead of standing around like a dummy?  
Mrs. Witherby (getting angry)—You are a wonder! First I told you to decide the matter for yourself, and then, when you insisted on my advice, I gave it to you at once. Now you are abusing me just because I've got strength of mind enough to stick by what I said.  
Mrs. Witherby—I don't care! You are perfectly useless.  
Witherby (resigned)—All right; I am. Here comes the telephone man. Say, where's the best place to put that machine?  
Telephone Man—I should say, sir, in the hall, back of these stairs.  
Mrs. Witherby (calmly)—Of course that's the best place. But I'll know better next time than to think of consulting you about anything!  
Exit Witherby, whistling violently.

—Tom Mason.

## THE CONGO DWARFS

McClure's.  
Other dwarf races of humanity, belonging to the white, or the Mongolian species, may have inhabited North America in ancient times, or it is just possible that this type of pygmy negro which survives to-day in the recesses of Inner Africa may even have overran Europe in remote times. If it did, then the conclusion is irresistible that it gave rise to most of the myths and beliefs connected with gnomes, kobolds and fairies. The demigods and actions of the little Congo dwarfs at the present day remind one over and over again of the traits attributed to "the little people" of our fairy stories. Their remarkable power of becoming invisible by adroit hiding in herbage and behind rocks, their probable habits in sterile or open countries of making their homes in holes and caverns; their mischievousness and their pranks good nature all seem to suggest that it was some race like this which inspired most of the stories of Teuton and Celt regarding dwarfish people of quasi-supernatural attributes. The dwarfs of the Congo forest can be good or bad neighbors to the big black people, according to the treatment they receive. If their elfish depredations on the banana groves or their occasional thefts of tobacco or maize are condoned, or even if they are conciliated by small gifts of such food left exposed where it can be easily taken, they will in return leave behind them in their nightly visitations gifts of metals and products of their chase, such as skins or ivory. I have been informed by some of the forest negroes that the dwarfs will occasionally steal their children and put their places pygmy babies of ape-like appearance—changing, in fact—bringing up the children they have stolen in the dwarf tribe. These collections of pygmies, which one can scarcely call tribes, certainly exhibit from time to time individuals of ordinary stature, and with features not strongly resembling those of the pygmy type.

## SULTAN'S MUSICAL TASTES

London Mail.  
It will be news to most people that the Sultan of Turkey is an enthusiastic musical amateur. The statement, however, is nevertheless true.  
A well-known Anglo-German firm has just sent his majesty two more grand pianos. This firm has already supplied him with many such instruments, but the sultan is still unsatisfied.  
He does not play himself, but some of the ladies of his harem do, and of course, many brilliant pianists perform before him. But he does not play himself, he is at any rate fond of singing, and he has a keen collector of musical instruments and is said to be a connoisseur in fiddles. Strange enough, too, these huge mechanical structures which are so commonly found in Germany and Russia and which purport to be organ, orchestra and brass band in one, are very popular both with the sultan and the shah.  
Another curious fact is that a grand piano has just been bought by an Arab sheikh at Khartum. It is to be played by his chief wife.

## KIPLING'S RIDE

Up from the south at break of day,  
Bringing to England some new dismay,  
The tremulous air with hilarity bore  
A sort of rumbling, rattling roar,  
Which told that Rud Kipling was writing more.  
For a sinister chuckle smote the shore—  
And Kip was a thousand miles away!  
It thundered against those cliffs of chalk,  
This jibbing assortment of wireless talk,  
And told them: "I'm lolling at ease on deck,  
And thinking of how you're a mental wreck,  
And measure your troubles by more than a peck,  
Because, forsooth, I have smitten your neck!"  
And Kip was a thousand miles away!  
"You flannelled fools!" came the chuckle hoarse,  
"You cats! You are muddled still more, of course!"  
For the best part is, do you understand?  
That I understand, like my Vampire grand,  
That you don't, as you never, and you won't understand,  
Although I may, ribble to beat the band!"  
And Kip was a thousand miles away!  
"Ho! ho!" it roared: "There are me and the crew,  
And the mate and the cook and the captain, too,  
And we're reading the poem the whole way through,  
And counting the dollar-per-word that's due,  
And saying that none of the points are new,  
But you needed a jolt—it was coming to you!"  
And Kip was a thousand miles away!  
"You're flannelled fools and you're silly loons,  
You're muddled cats and you're filled with prunes,  
I'm taking a sail on the mighty wet,  
But I'm not through listing your bad traits yet.  
So you'd better heed me, and not forget,  
Or I'll make the next one worse, you bet!"  
And Kip was a thousand miles away!  
—W. D. Nesbit.

## A REMARKABLE FLOWER

London Leader.  
The most remarkable flower of the coronation year will be a quaint introduction from Central Asia which has for its sponsor in this country a Hobson firm. According to the importers, it grows on a saucer without



soil or water, and without showing leaves or roots the bulb shoots out a red-brown flower, with red and yellow tip sometimes two feet long. When the flower is off it pretends to retire into the soil and to be well watered, when it follows up with a three foot umbrella leaf.

## A NARROW ESCAPE

"I enclose a photograph of a pipe broken under the most extraordinary circumstances," writes a Cambridge man to the Strand Magazine. "It happened a few weeks ago in a garden at Newton-Abbot. I was innocently



smoking it, when my friends and I were started to hear the report of a rifle, fired at no great distance. Simultaneously my pipe was knocked out of my mouth and broken into two pieces, which fell to the ground, there being some seven feet between them."

## THIS SOVEREIGN SAVED A LIFE

"I'm sending by this mail a photo of a sovereign which I thought you would like for your 'Curiosities' pages," writes a British soldier in South Africa to the Strand Magazine.  
"I was wearing it around my ankle in a little leather bag when I was wounded at Warmbad, about seventy or eighty miles north of Pretoria. The bullet (a Mauser) cut the piece clean out and left the sovereign sticking in the wound."

## THE VANQUISHED

Paul Kester in Smart Set.  
Shall those  
Who have not known temptation  
Wear the crown  
Denied to those  
Who battled even if they fell,  
Who knew  
And chose  
The good, and strove  
To conquer for its sake?  
When they are vanquished,  
Reproaches on them—  
Shall we say,  
See, they were sinful,  
Let them die—  
Bind not their wounds,  
They have offended God?  
O Pharisees!

## THREE GOOD STORIES

On the President.  
New York Times.  
Ex-Congressman John W. Wise of Virginia, now of this city, is a warm personal friend of President Roosevelt. Being in Washington a few days ago, he visited the White House and was promptly accorded an interview. In the course of the conversation the president is said to have suddenly remarked:  
"Now, John, you are a very observing man and know pretty near what is going on. Tell me what the people seem to think of my administration?"  
"Or, Mr. President," Mr. Wise replied, "the opinion seems to be that you will go down to posterity as a Washington."

In Order of Importance.  
It was in a western hotel. A bell boy was sent to Colonel William Grease Stierrett's room to ascertain what urgent need had impelled that gentleman to push the button. He entered and found the colonel deeply immersed in a friendly game with some chosen spirits.  
"Did you ring, sah?" he deferentially inquired.  
"Yes," said Colonel Stierrett, deftly hurling two unpromising pastebards into the discard. "We want you to bring us some whisky. My friends here will take Scotch whisky."

Capillary Attraction.  
Some of Mrs. Fiske's friends were discussing in her presence the reasons for the great crowds at the "Du Barry" performances. One lady suggested Mrs. Leslie's famous "Titan" looks as a great drawing card.  
"Ah, I see," said Mrs. Fiske, "it's a case of capillary attraction."

## FABULOUS RENTS

Tatler.  
The rents of houses for the next season are becoming simply enormous. I know of one house in Park Lane whose owner has already refused the offer of £4,000 a year for the next season, and fully expects to get that fabulous sum for a three months' let. Sir Richard and Lady Musgrave have let their house in Charles street for £1,200, and great were the heartburnings of those who own houses along the different possible lines of route for the royal progress until the doubt was finally laid to rest as to which particular route had been chosen. They do not like to refuse fairly good offers lest the route of the procession should not go their way; on the other hand, if their line is favored there is no telling what prices the houses may command. The American invasion threatens this year to break all known records, and there is no doubt that their advent in clouds will not resemble that of the devastating locusts but rather of the golden cloud in which Zeus disguised himself when he visited Danae.

## SMART SET JOKES

**The Reason.**  
"What caused Cranksmith to attempt suicide?"  
"Oh, he was beaten by himself at a game of solitaire."  
**As a rule.**  
The plainer a theorem in geometry is to a woman, the plainer she is.  
**Not Applicable.**  
Father—You should always remember that life is what we make it.  
Speckthrift Son—Yes; but you see, dad, I don't make my own living.  
**Great Luck.**  
Farmer Klawback—Neighbor Akinside is mighty lucky with his disease.  
Farmer Honk—Lucky?  
"Yes; he takes dyspepsia medicine right along, and it hasn't never killed him yet."  
**Sure Enough.**  
Little Willie—Papa, the devil hasn't any father or mother, has he?  
Papa—No, certainly not.  
"Well, then, Pa, who raised the devil?"  
**CAT AS CHIEF LEGATEE**  
London Mail.  
Paris—Mlle. Jelet, an old married lady who died a few days ago in the Batignolles quarter of Paris, has by the terms of her will left £12 per annum for the maintenance of her cat as long as it lives, and £4 per annum for a veterinary surgeon to attend the animal.  
To a female servant who had taken care of her for six years the deceased left a half-penny a day for life, or less than a twenty-third part of the sum to be spent on the cat.  
The remainder of the lady's fortune, which was considerable, is left to the parish church.



EX-PRESIDENT KRUGER AS HE APPEARS TO-DAY

This remarkable portrait, drawn from the latest photograph, shows the striking change that has been wrought in the features of Mr. Kruger in the last few months. You would hardly believe that this is a portrait of the same man who, three short years ago, was as powerful in Pretoria. The characteristic beard is buried beneath the heavy fur collar.—London Leader.

## SPRAT SANK THE BOAT

London Express.  
Two fishermen have just had an extraordinary catch of sprats off Folkestone. They slowly hauled in their nets, which were so full of sprats that the weight of the fish at last sank the boat.  
Assistance was promptly rendered by other fishermen in the vicinity, and the enormous draft, which filled two boats, was secured, and the sunken boat towed into the harbor.

## INTERIOR OF GREENLAND

Lieutenant R. E. Peary.  
The interior of Greenland is simply an elevated, unbroken plateau of snow, lifted from 5,000 to 8,000 and even 10,000 feet above the level of the sea; a huge, white, glistening shield some 1,200 miles in length and 500 miles in width, resting on the supporting mountains. It is an arctic Sahara, in comparison with which the African Sahara is insignificant. For on this frozen Sahara of ice, no vegetation, no fruit of rock, no grain of sand, is visible. The traveler across this frozen wastes, traveling as I have week after week, sees nothing of himself and his own party but three things in the world, namely, the infinite expanse of the frozen plain, the infinite dome of the cold blue sky, and the cold white sun—nothing else. The traveler, too, across this frozen desert knows that at no time during his journey are the highest rocks of the mountain summits below him nearer than 1,000 to 5,000 feet down through the mighty blankets of snow.



AFTER THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

The King and Queen Preparing to Leave the House of Lords.

## The University Dramatic Club and Its Midwinter Plays



CLAYTON D. GILBERT, Dramatic Director.

ARTHUR N. COLLINS.

HARRY MITCHELL.

INEZ LORD.

M. LEROY ARNOLD.

THOMAS SWEM.

H. D. CAMPBELL, President.

The annual midwinter performance of the University Dramatic club will take place Monday evening, Feb. 10, at the Lyceum theater. A double bill of unusual interest will be presented. The bill includes "The Old Musician," a one-act drama adapted from the French by Felix Morris, which was one of the successes of Mr. Morris' strong repertory and "Les Romanesques," an early play of Edmund Rostand which foreshadows the greatness which he fully achieved in "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "L'Aiglon."

"The Old Musician" is a poetic idyl with a delightful, quiet bit of character work that makes it an effective foil for the comedy of the principal piece whose delicate foreshadowing of times almost becomes burlesque. The cast of "The Old Musician" is as follows:  
Frank Lane.....Jacques, the Old Musician  
G. B. Webster.....Percival  
Harry Mitchell.....Crocet  
Nina Wheeler.....Nina  
The scene is laid in an attic in Paris, where the old musician is starving, while his landlord, who wrings from him his exquisite musical compositions by intimidation, is becoming rich. He is found by his daughter, and his opera is rescued from the dishonest landlord and brings wealth to the composer who bestows the hand of his daughter on his one faithful friend.  
"Les Romanesques" is based upon the remark of one of the interested fathers, "Marriage without obstacles isn't tempting to two such poetic young simpletons." It is full of poetic fancies and fine lines

and there is much keen appreciation of human nature in the character drawing. The motive is drawn from "Romeo and Juliet," from whose romantic notions the youthful lovers had drunk deep. The scene opens with them reading extracts from the play as they stand on opposite sides of the wall between their fathers' gardens. They compare their case to that of the romantic children who will not be satisfied if they know the marriage has been prearranged. When the dotting old marplots discover that their fierce opposition has brought about an engagement, they are obliged to plan a romantic way of becoming reconciled. Catching a sug-

gestion from the talk of the lovers, a spectacular abduction is planned in which rescue his fair sweetheart. This heroic deed causes a reconciliation of the old enemies.  
The two estates become united and all are living together, the old men miss the excitement and the "Revenge of the Romantic" overtakes them. Irritated by the romantic "abduction chant" of the lovers, the old men let out the secret. Bent on finding a real romance, the lover obtains in order to get his money for the abduction, determines to match up the match, rightly opining that after Percival received a salutary bath in reality he would return like the prodigal son. Meantime he cures the girl of her romantic notions by a threatened real ab-

duction. Both situations and characters are tinged with the fantastic, but it is of a delicate and poetic kind. The lines in literary quality beat the sentiment. The version used is a combination of the two chief English translations, one of which under the title "The Fantasticks" was put on by the Sargent school in New York and the other by the Browning society of Philadelphia. Both of these productions were put on after the university club had begun rehearsal for the play and it had not been given before in America. The first act which is practically complete in itself, is now being used by Charles Frohman as a curtain raiser from "Sweet and Twenty" in New York. Mrs. Patrick Campbell has given a few performances of the play in her theater in London, and it is a favorite at the Comedie Francaise.

The cast for the university performance is as follows:  
Miss Inez Lord.....Sylvette  
Thomas Swem.....Percival  
Don Campbell.....Crocet  
Leroy Arnold.....Bergarum, father of Percival  
Arthur Collins.....Pasqueton, father of Sylvette  
Harry Mitchell.....Blake, a gardener  
A pretty feature will be an incidental dance at the wedding party given by Misses Dean, Robbins, Olin, Swart, McFarland, Fugundus, Alden and Kinyon, under the direction of Miss Marguerite Barbour.  
Aside from the fact that plays of unquestioned value from both a dramatic and literary standpoint are chosen, the work of the club has an educational value in the character of the training given. The performers are not simply coached for their individual parts, but are given a regular course of training. They study

and develop the play just as in a dramatic school. They study the period for light on all points in the play, costume, deportment, "business," make-up, etc. The costumes are designed by those taking part. Work has been going on under the direction of Clayton D. Gilbert for four months and in many respects the finish of the production will equal the work of professionals. The careful work from a dramatic standpoint and the high quality of the plays give the production an interest wholly outside of the personal one of going to see what one's friends and neighbors can do in amateur theatricals. As the latter reason always proves an attractive one, the double reason should fill the Lyceum with a brilliant house that will assure the club that its high aspirations are appreciated and supported by the public.

## WHAT TO BE GAINED?

A. M. Dewey, now working in Minneapolis as special agent of the federal bureau of labor, questions whether any distinct advantages will accrue to labor interests through the department of commerce and labor recommended in the Nelson bill which has just passed the senate. He declares that the appointment of a secretary of labor will not add to the usefulness of the department in its rela-

tion either to the manufacturers or to the workers. On the contrary, he is not sure that the appointment of a new secretary of labor may not work to the positive detriment of departmental efficiency by dragging the labor bureau heels over head into politics.  
Although Commissioner Carroll D. Wright has been mentioned as possible secretary of the new department, and while he would doubtless appreciate the honor, Mr. Dewey cannot see that it would add anything to the former's reputation as a man or a statesman.

"The incorporation of the census bureau with the new department," said Mr. Dewey, "would practically establish a permanent census bureau, which would be a good thing, as it would insure expert statisticians to do the work now so imperfectly executed by men new with the creation of each census bureau. One reason why Director Merriam has been more successful than his predecessors is found in the fact that he borrowed from Colonel Wright several of his most expert trained agents."  
"It was my privilege to write the bill

which created the labor bureau in the first session of congress in the Harrison administration. It was never the intention of those who believed in a labor bureau to enforce the immigration laws. It was felt that immigration should be controlled by the treasury department. The evil effect of placing such a bureau in any of the departments represented in the cabinet was demonstrated in the first organization and control of the bureau of immigration. W. D. Owens, of Indiana, chairman of the commission on immigration, was appointed its first chief. During his

entire administration he was quarrelling with Secretary Foster and other politicians as to how the work of enforcing the immigration laws should be carried out.  
"As a result few of the immigration laws have been enforced and those that imperfectly, especially when the interests of the great steamship companies and the people seemed to cross each other."  
In recent years, Mr. Dewey explained, the department of labor has completed and published reports bearing upon every

phase of the economic life of the industrial people. To get information for these purposes special agents have visited all the leading manufacturers and establishments in the United States and Europe. In the beginning it was always necessary to satisfy the officers of the large corporations that the information sought, being confidential and technical, would not injure them when published. Agents have so seldom broken faith with persons from whom such information was obtained that to-day when representatives of the labor bureau presents his card to big manufac-

turers they invariably meet with a cordial greeting and the question "What can we do for you now?"  
Colonel Wright had thus come to be known as a scientist and a statistician and in no sense a politician, in the sense that the word is generally understood. The veteran commissioner opposed the creation of a department of labor under the supervision of a member of the cabinet when it was first proposed during Harrison's administration, and Mr. Dewey believes he is still heartily opposed to any such bill.